

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION  
AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**October, 2006**

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# **Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities**

## **Membership Roster**

### **Senators**

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**Troy Woodruff, Chairperson  
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## **Legislative Services Agency Staff**

**Susan Kennell  
Attorney for the Commission**

**Sarah Brooks  
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission**

**October, 2006**

## **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

The Indiana Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (Commission) was established by P.L. 78-1994 to do the following:

- (1) develop a long range plan for community-based services for the developmentally disabled; and
- (2) review, make recommendations, and monitor changes regarding services to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled population.

P.L. 245-1997 amended the original legislation, extending the life of the Commission to January 1, 2001. P.L. 272-1999 further extended the life of the Commission to January 1, 2005, and added the following responsibilities:

- (1) review and make recommendations regarding the implementation of the comprehensive plan prepared by the Developmental Disabilities Task Force (the "317 Plan"); and
- (2) review and make recommendations regarding the development by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services of a statewide plan to address quality assurance in community-based services.

P.L. 242-2001 added an annual review of the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program ("First Steps") to the Commission's duties.

In 2002, the Commission was converted to a permanent statutory commission in P.L. 190-2002. In addition, the Commission was required to:

- (1) study and make recommendations for the state to use state employees or contract with a private entity to manage and implement home- and community-based services waivers;
- (2) study and make recommendations regarding state funding needed to provide supplemental room and board costs for individuals who otherwise qualify for residential services under the home- and community-based services waivers; and
- (3) monitor and recommend changes for improvements in the implementation of home- and community-based services waivers.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Commission met two times during the 2006 interim session on August 22, 2006, and September 25, 2006.

The Commission is not required to file a final report. Meeting minutes for the Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

### **III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

The Commission addressed several topics during its two meetings. (More details on the meetings can be obtained from the minutes available from the General Assembly homepage referenced above.)

At the August 22 meeting, the Commission received an update on the closing of the Silvercrest Children's Development Center from the State Department of Health. The meeting also included updates from the Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disabilities and Rehabilitative Service (DDRS), on the planned closure of the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center, plans for the future of the DDRS, implementation of a new case management system, and the Medicaid waivers. There was also an update on the First Steps Program. The Arc of Indiana provided the Commission with an update on services for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

At the September 25 meeting, the Commission received an update from the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (First Steps) about First Steps, as well as an additional update from the First Steps Program. The Commission received an update from DDRS on Medicaid waiver funding and the retention of funds currently appropriated for the operation of Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne Developmental Center in future budgets. The Commission also received information from INARF and the Arc of Indiana on budget priorities.

### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations were made at the September 25, 2006, meeting of the Commission.

**Retention of Appropriations for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne Developmental Center Resolution:** The proposed resolution requests FSSA, the State Department of Health, and the Budget Agency to work together to ensure that the funds previously appropriated for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center be retained for use for services for persons with developmental disabilities. The Commission voted, 9 to 0, to approve the resolution.

**Resolution Concerning Quality of Care for Individuals in Community Settings:** The proposed resolution emphasizes the importance of continuity of quality care for individuals with developmental disabilities who are in community settings and requests that DDRS conduct a study to develop a career path for direct care providers. The Commission voted, 8 to 0, to approve the resolution.